

House of Delegates of the California Medical Association; the official positions so created giving them also—but only during their terms of office—automatic membership in the corporation known as the “Trustees Of The California Medical Association.” Thus, there should be every assurance that the members and directors of the Trustees Of The California Medical Association would at all times be responsive to the ideals of the members of the California Medical Association, as well as to the legal provisions which the State of California has seen fit to enact in order properly to protect gifts of trust. The articles of incorporation, to be found in this issue on page 540, give additional information.

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Additional Grant and Bequest Forms.—In the March issue, on page 146, three forms, one of Legacy, another of Devise of Real Property, and a third, that for a Bequest of Personal Property, were given. In the 1931 “Directory” of the California Medical Association, on page XXIII, also we printed five somewhat similar forms, all of which were submitted by us at that time to the General Counsel of the Association, for approval as to proper legal phraseology. For their suggestive value and because of the importance of the subject, these are here reprinted:

* * *

FORM OF CLAUSE OF WILL PROVIDING FOR CASH BEQUEST

I hereby give and bequeath unto Trustees Of The California Medical Association, a nonprofit corporation of California, the sum of \$—— to be known as the —— Gift, to be used and expended by said corporation for scientific, educational or hospital purposes.

* * *

FORM OF CLAUSE OF WILL PROVIDING FOR CASH BEQUEST

I give and bequeath unto Trustees Of The California Medical Association, a nonprofit corporation of California, the sum of \$——, to be held as a fund, to be known as the [here insert name desired] Fund, the principal whereof shall from time to time be invested to the best advantage compatible with safety, and the income whereof shall be used and applied for scientific, educational or hospital purposes.

* * *

FORM OF CLAUSE OF WILL PROVIDING FOR BEQUEST OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

I give and bequeath unto Trustees Of The California Medical Association, a nonprofit corporation of California [here describe the property], the same, or the proceeds thereof, to be held as a perpetual fund, to be known as the [here insert name desired] Fund, the income whereof shall be used and applied for scientific, educational or hospital purposes. The said corporation shall have the power to sell said property and to invest and reinvest the proceeds arising from the sale thereof from time to time as it may deem advisable for the purpose of producing as large an income as may be compatible with safety.

* * *

FORM OF CLAUSE OF WILL PROVIDING FOR DEVISE OF REAL PROPERTY

I give and devise unto Trustees Of The California Medical Association, a nonprofit corporation of California, to aid and further its scientific, educational and hospital purposes, and to be known as the —— Gift, the follow-

ing described real property situate in the County of ——, State of California, and more particularly described as follows, to wit:

* * *

FORM OF CLAUSE OF WILL PROVIDING FOR DEVISE OF REAL PROPERTY

I give and devise unto Trustees Of The California Medical Association, a nonprofit corporation of California [here describe the property], the same, or the proceeds thereof, to be held as a perpetual fund, to be known as the [here insert name desired] Fund, the income whereof shall be used for and applied to the support and maintenance of scientific, educational or hospital purposes. The said corporation shall have the power to sell said property and to invest and reinvest the proceeds arising from the sale thereof from time to time as it may deem advisable for the purpose of producing as large an income as may be compatible with safety.

RATIONAL MEDICINE: A “FIFTY-YEAR-AGO” ARTICLE BY DR. JOSEPH P. WIDNEY

Readers of the April and May CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE,* who failed to peruse the biographical sketch of Dr. Joseph P. Widney, founder of both the Los Angeles County Medical Association and the College of Medicine of the University of Southern California (and still in active literary and other work at the age of ninety-five), deprived themselves of a rare opportunity to reflect on the many possibilities in life for broad and helpful service. Reference is again made to Doctor Widney because this and next month's magazine will publish a paper on rational (nonsectarian) medicine, brought out by Doctor Widney some fifty years ago, and yet today having presentations as true as they were then; the articles showing how fundamental is the basis upon which scientific and rational medicine are grounded. What Doctor Widney stated in such clear fashion a half century ago, still obtains and will continue to obtain; for only that which is truth prevails—a truism that applies to medicine as to all other things. Part I of Doctor Widney's discussion of Rational Medicine will be found in this issue on page 513.

SUPREME COURT OF CALIFORNIA RULES THAT THE GIVING OF AN ANESTHETIC BY A NURSE IS NOT ILLEGAL PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

On May 18, the California Supreme Court handed down an important opinion, on an appeal from a decision rendered by the district court, in which the latter court had ruled that the giving of an anesthetic by a nurse was not a violation of the Medical Practice Act of California, and was not illegal practice of medicine here.

This opinion announced by Chief Justice William Harrison Waste—Associate Justices Conrey, Curtis, Langdon, and Thompson all concurring—is printed on page 537 of this issue, and is recommended for study to the members of the California Medical Association.

* See pages 251 and 292 in the April number, and page 396 in the May issue.

Heretofore, the Board of Medical Examiners of the State of California has held a view contrary to that expressed by the Supreme Court, although it has not made any arrests to test out its interpretation.

The Supreme Court's opinion covers some of the major points at issue. Unless a petition for a rehearing is presented and granted, and the opinion reversed, the court's interpretation of the Medical Practice Act, on the giving of anesthetics by nurses, will stand as law in California.*

Other State Association and Component County Society News.—Additional news concerning the activities and work of the California Medical Association and its component county medical societies is printed in this issue, commencing on page 522.

EDITORIAL COMMENT†

TOLERANCE TO COD-LIVER OIL—U. S. P. X§

Recently, interest has been focused on the use of large amounts of vitamin D in the treatment of chronic disease states.¹ Leake² has emphasized the dangers of such therapy, since deaths have followed the use of irradiated ergosterol³ and cod-liver oil.⁴ The present case is reported as an instance of overdosage (10 liters of unirradiated Cod-Liver Oil—U. S. P. X), in which no symptoms or signs of toxicity were noted, though a derangement of mineral and carbohydrate metabolism was observed, which was believed due to the uncontrolled self-medication.

A woman of twenty-five years, weighing 55 kilos, took an average of 100 cubic centimeters of Cod-Liver Oil—U. S. P. X and a quart of cow's milk daily to gain weight. After three and one-half months she had gained 11 kilos, at which time she stopped taking the oil but continued the milk intake in the same amount. One month later, on examination she was found symptom-free and without physical signs referable to vitamin A or D toxicity. Laboratory examinations of blood, clotting time, complement fixation, urine, phenol-

sulphonaphthalein excretion, and basal metabolism were within normal limits. An electrocardiographic tracing showed no abnormal changes.⁵ Blood cholesterol was 194.6 milligrams per cent, calcium 9.0 milligrams per 100 cubic centimeters, and phosphorus 5.6 milligrams per cent.⁶ Analysis of a twenty-four-hour urine specimen revealed 0.25 grams of calcium and 1.281 grams of phosphorus in 1,810 cubic centimeters.⁷ The parathormone titer, determined by the method of Hamilton,⁸ was within the normal range. A test of tolerance to 100 grams of glucose given orally after a twelve-hour fast showed the following concentrations over the four-hour period: 79, 80, 80, 88, and 79 milligrams per 100 cubic centimeters, without glycosuria. Roentgen examination of the skull showed no changes in bone density or evidence of demineralization as compared with roentgenograms taken four years previously.

COMMENT

With the exception of the abnormal response to glucose ingestion, no damage following the excessive daily intake of 100 cubic centimeters of Cod-Liver Oil—U. S. P. X over a hundred-day period was evident, so far as our examination disclosed. The disturbed tolerance noted might be due to a more rapid utilization of glucose by the tissues or to more prompt glycogen formation. The normal calcium and elevated phosphorus blood levels apparently indicate that rapid excretion of these minerals by normally functioning kidneys occurred with no evidence of demineralization of the bones being apparent. The excess excretion of calcium and phosphorus observed is thought by Thatcher³ to be due to undue stimulation of the calcium phosphorus metabolism by strong concentrations of vitamin D given over a relatively long period, the calcium being lost instead of utilized. The rise in blood phosphorus without a corresponding hypercalcemia noted in our case is considered by Thatcher⁴ to be evidence of vitamin D toxicity. This is the first clinical demonstration, so far as we can determine, of deranged mineral metabolism under these circumstances. Four or five times the recommended daily dose of cod-liver oil may be taken, then, on the basis of these findings, with disturbance of mineral balance, but without symptoms or physical signs of dysfunction. In cases suspected of vitamin D toxicity, an examination of the blood and urine for calcium and phosphorus should be helpful in early diagnosis.

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*At Coronado the House of Delegates and the Council instructed General Counsel Peart to make request of the Supreme Court for a rehearing. The Board of Medical Examiners of the State of California has also petitioned Attorney-General Webb to join in the case as *amicus curiae*.

†This department of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE presents editorial comment by contributing members on items of medical progress, science and practice, and on topics from recent medical books or journals. An invitation is extended to all members of the California and Nevada Medical Associations to submit brief editorial discussions suitable for publication in this department. No presentation should be over five hundred words in length.

§From the laboratory of Dr. Alfred C. Reed and the pharmacological laboratory of the University of California Medical School, San Francisco.

1 Dreyer, I., and Reed, C. I.: Arch. Phys. Therapy, 16:537 (Sept.), 1935. Vrtiak, E. G., and Lang, R. S.: J. A. M. A., 106:1162 (April 4), 1936.

2 Leake, C. D.: Calif. and West. Med., 44:149 (March), 1936.

3 Thatcher, L.: Edinburgh M. J., 38:457 (August), 1931.

4 Thatcher, L.: Lancet, 230:20 (January 4), 1936.

5 Kindness of Dr. Francis Rochex.

6 Kindness of Dr. Zera Bolin.

7 Kindness of Dr. May Olney and Dr. A. S. Mulay.

8 Hamilton, Bengt, and Schwartz, C.: J. Pharmacol. and Exper. Therap., 46:285 (November), 1932.

‡The authors are indebted, for technical assistance, to Mrs. Media Orem Dahl.